

They came back to land in the grass and then mated. Another female was observed being pursued by two males and a third was seen rejecting a male by raising its abdomen vertically above its wings. Other pairs were seen mating. One female narrowly avoided being caught on the wing by robber fly (Asilidae).

Two females were observed laying pale green-blue eggs singly on pink-flowered Mountain Sainfoin *Onobrychis montana*. The first oviposition was observed at 14.45 hours, in bright sunshine. After testing the plant in several places with the end of her curving abdomen, the butterfly placed the egg on the upper side of an *O. montana* basal leaf. A second female was observed laying an egg on the stem of an *O. montana* plant in a bract below a single seed pod (generally there is a cluster of terminal seedpods in *O. montana*). Closer inspection of the plant, once the butterfly had left, revealed that there was already an *A. nephohiptamenos* egg near the seedpod. Other females were seen testing potential food plants with the tips of their abdomens, but they did not lay eggs.

At 16.00 hours, it became cloudier and the butterflies became inclined to rest on plants and open their wings to catch the sunshine. At 17.00 hours, it began to thunder and spots of rain to fall. The butterflies became inactive and disappeared from view, but a fourth *A. nephohiptamenos* egg was found on the calyx of a lower flower of an *O. montana* inflorescence. The four eggs were collected, but none of them hatched.

– ANDREW WAKEHAM-DAWSON, Mill Laine Farm, Offham, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3QB and TED BENTON, 13 Priory Close, Colchester, Essex CO1 2PY.

***Kissiter minimus* (Aubé) (Col.: Histeridae) from a tree cavity in East Suffolk**

In the course of collecting on the edge of Martin's Glen at Great Martin's Hill Wood, Bentley (O. S. grid reference TM 1036) on 5 June 2001, I came across an old, living Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* with most of the interior at the base of one side of the trunk occupied by a large cavity. Sieving the approximately 12 centimetre depth of damp, rotten wood and loamy soil inside this produced single examples of *Mycetaea hirta* (Marsham), *Olophrum piceum* (Gyllenhal), *Othius myrmecophilus* Kiesenwetter and a small histerid, which from the habitat, I assumed to be the locally common *Abraeus globosus* (Hoffman). As the rare, other British member of the genus, *granulum* Erichson, is not known from the county, I retained the beetle.

Upon examining it under the microscope, I was surprised to find that it was *Kissiter minimus*, a beetle I would normally expect to find under stones and detritus in sandy places and at the roots of grass and Sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*. *Mycetaea* turns up commonly in damp, fungoid tree cavities and I would expect the two staphylinids to occur in damp leaf litter, moss etc. in woodland such as this, so the discovery of these in this microhabitat is no surprise. The presence of the histerid is more enigmatic as the cavity did not extend externally to ground level so it must have deliberately crawled or flown in. I have never found the beetle under bark, but Vienna (1980, *Fauna d'Italia: XVI*, Histeridae, p. 208) cites the beetle as occurring in this situation as well as in humus, either or both of which may have attracted the beetle in this case. It would be interesting to know if other British coleopterists have taken *Kissiter* under bark, in association with tree cavities or in other atypical situations— DAVID R. NASH, 3 Church Lane, Brantham, Suffolk CO11 1PU.